

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05936 121228Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 /079 W
-----121304Z 035638 /47

R 121212Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3934
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN GERMANY
435 TAW RHEIN MAIN AF GE/DO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5936

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, AL
SUBJECT: INADVERTENT INTRUSION OF US MILITARY AIRCRAFT INTO
ALBANIAN AIRSPACE

1. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF BALKAN AFFAIRS (FRANCHETTI) ASKED
EMBOFF TO CALL ON HIM APRIL 8. SUBJECT OF MEETING WAS TO
EXPRESS ITALIAN CONCERN OVER VIOLATION OF ALBANIAN AIRSPACE
BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD TAKEN OFF FROM AIRFIELD
AT BRINDISI ON FEBRUARY 15. IN RAISING THE MATTER, FRANCHETTI
STRESSED THAT ITALIAN ACTION DID NOT CONSTITUTE A FORMAL
PROTEST.

2. ACCORDING TO FRANCHETTI, ALBANIAN MFA ON FEBRUARY 22
PROTESTED ORALLY TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AT TIRANA ABOUT
VIOLATION OF THE COUNTRY'S AIRSPACE. IN THEIR PROTEST, THE
ALBANIANS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THEY HOLD THE ITALIANS
FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION.

3. ACCORDING TO FRANCHETTI, MFA INVESTIGATION VERIFIED
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THAT THE INCIDENT DID, IN FACT, OCCUR. MFA HAS
BEEN INFORMED THAT BRINDISI AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
ATTEMPTED IN VAIN TO CONTACT THE AIRCRAFT TO ADVISE
IT THAT IT WAS FLYING OFF COURSE AND THAT TWO ITALIAN
AIRCRAFT WERE SENT UP TO TRY TO INTERCEPT THE AMERICAN
PLANE BEFORE IT VIOLATED ALBANIAN AIRSPACE.

4. FRANCHETTI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD CALLED IN TO HIS OFFICE ON APRIL 8 ALBANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR TO GIVE ORAL REPLY TO EARLIER ALBANIAN PROTEST. THE ITALIAN REPLY DISCLAIMED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT AND NOTED THAT THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAD DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE INCURSION INTO ALBANIAN AIRSPACE.

5. IN CONCLUDING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, FRANCHETTI SAID INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE ARE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ITALY, AND HE GENTLY ASKED THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE MEASURE TO ENSURE THAT A SIMILAR INCIDENT NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. EMBOFF EXPRESSED REGRET THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD BRING ITALIAN CONCERNS ABOUT IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ALLEGATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770466/aaaacewf.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 2f3fbd6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, AL
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